

FACTS

from the City of Greenville

Issued: July 10, 2001

Telecommunications Infrastructure Report Completed

Summary

In late 2000, the City of Greenville sought proposals for a conceptual plan on the possible expansion of the Greenville community's telecommunications infrastructure. The firm of Design South Professionals in Anderson, S.C. was selected. The scope of services included:

- Identify issues and needs.
- Address the benefits of developing a high-speed telecommunications infrastructure.
- Identify and classify key players in and users of the network.
- Provide a conceptual infrastructure design.
- Describe how the network could expand into neighboring communities.

On July 13, the draft report will be presented to the Telecommunications Advisory Committee, a task force made up of interested business persons representing the real estate development, telecommunications and financial communities. The Committee will provide comments on the draft report. The final report will be presented to the Greenville City Council in the near future.

Key Findings:

- The report finds there is strong interest within the Greenville business community to proceed with this initiative and recommends a comprehensive study that includes market survey data obtained from a broad base of the business and residential community. The associated analysis of the market data is fundamental to development of the pro-forma financials needed to pursue political support and funding. When completed, the comprehensive study would serve as a guideline for developing a Request for Proposals

(RFP) for potential service providers. From these RFP respondents, selection of a service provider can be made and infrastructure partnering agreements developed.

- The report asserts the optimal situation would be for an incumbent service provider to partner with Greenville to increase access to high-speed facilities, while significantly reducing the cost associated with same. If this partnership does not occur, then the City could pursue its goals through partnerships with other providers and/or construction of a broadband network.
- In the event that Greenville has to construct, or have constructed, a broadband network, then the report recommends a fiber optic backbone to provide maximum flexibility and capacity. Such a backbone would be some 25- 30 miles in length and could cost up to \$2,000,000 for cable installation (not including network electronics).
- The report recommends a phased deployment. Phase 1 would install fiber in the Downtown area out toward Pleasantburg Drive. Phase 2 would build upon this initial construction and extend out to the I-385/I-85 boundary.
- The report states several municipalities are engaged in telecommunications infrastructure initiatives, believing that the investment in fiber infrastructure can bring many benefits to a community (for both economic development and human enrichment.) The report also states that Greenville should not ignore the trend toward municipal involvement in telecommunications infrastructure, since other municipalities will continue to develop attractive infrastructure and recruit information-based industry. The report asserts that the Greenville community could lose its competitive edge in economic development if the community does not undertake the expansion of its electronic infrastructure.

For more information:

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